



Kathleen Rice

Representing New York's 4th District

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Dear Friend,

I hope you and your family are staying safe and healthy as we approach the New Year.

With the Omicron variant spreading rapidly, I spoke to Dr. Aaron Glatt, Chair of the Mount Sinai South Nassau Department of Medicine, who helped answer some frequently asked questions. Please watch our [full conversation here](#) and view this [1-pager](#) with tips on how you and your family can be safe this holiday season.

This past year in Congress, I worked to pass historic legislation to help our communities recover here on Long Island. In March, President Biden signed the **American Rescue Plan Act** into law to roll out the vaccine nationwide and rebuild our economy. The bill included \$1,400 stimulus checks, expanded unemployment benefits, and authorized the improved Child Tax Credit, which has directly benefited over 100,000 children in NY-04 alone, providing annual payments of \$3,000 per child ages 6-17 and \$3,600 per child ages 5 and younger to qualifying families.

In November, we passed the **\$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act -- commonly referred to as the bipartisan infrastructure bill**. This legislation will send billions to New York State to help us repair and modernize our infrastructure, including \$11.6 billion for roads and highways, \$9.8 billion for public transit, \$2.6 billion to improve water infrastructure, \$1.9 billion for bridge replacement, \$685 million for airport infrastructure, \$175 million for electric vehicle charging networks, and \$100 million to provide affordable broadband coverage.

I'm pleased several of my bills were signed into law as well, including:

- **The HALT Drunk Driving Act**. This legislation will help reduce drunk driving deaths by requiring the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to set a standard for impaired driving safety equipment to be installed in all new vehicles.
- **The Modernizing Seat Back Safety Act**. This legislation requires the federal government to update inadequate motor vehicle seat back safety standards, which have led to death and injury for hundreds of children and passengers during rear-end collisions on the road.
- **The Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment (BRAVE) Act**. This bipartisan legislation expands employment opportunities for veterans by authorizing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to give preference to federal contractors that hire full-time veteran employees.
- **The Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers (PAWS) for Veterans Therapy Act**. The PAWS Act creates a

pilot program within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide veterans with access to treatment with service dogs, helping veterans struggling with PTSD and other mental health conditions.

- **The Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act**. This bill permanently authorizes the New York City-based National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL), a federal lab that supports first responders on Long Island and urban areas across the country by testing and evaluating new technologies and systems that could be used in the event of a terrorist attack, industrial accident, or natural disaster. It was included in the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act, which was passed by both chambers of Congress and awaits the President's signature.

In addition to our legislative accomplishments, I'm incredibly proud of the work my District Office team has done helping constituents get through this difficult year. So far in 2021, our office has helped 1,192 constituents with federal casework issues, like securing Medicare and VA benefits and obtaining and renewing passports. My team was able to help constituents process 235 passport cases this year. Given the uptick in passport cases, [I led a letter to the State Department](#) urging it to protect desperate travelers from private passport courier services that were booking free appointments in large quantities and selling them to the general public for up to \$450. My team also continued assisting the small business community during this pandemic, helping more than 200 businesses with outstanding Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) applications.

In total, my office was able to return more than \$1.1 million to constituents, including \$463,000 in Social Security benefits and \$640,000 in IRS returns, stimulus payments, and tax corrections. Additionally, we helped secure more than \$87 million in federal grant funding for our district, including \$7.5 million in Department of Homeland Security funding for synagogues, more than \$3 million in Department of Education funding for local universities, and more than \$11 million in Department of Housing and Urban Development funding.

Finally, please know my office is here to help. If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact my office at (516) 739-3008 or email me [here](#).

Happy holidays to you and your family!

Sincerely



Kathleen Rice



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